

From: [Eric Delgado](#)
To: [Craig Carroll](#); [John Martin](#)
Cc: [Richard Mayer](#); [Paige Delgado](#); [Gary Moore](#)
Subject: Re: Odors in New Orleans -- Re: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill
Date: 04/30/2010 08:03 AM

Jon

I forwarded this request to the data management folks in the field and at the REOC.

▼ [Craig Carroll](#)

----- Original Message -----

From: Craig Carroll
Sent: 04/30/2010 07:40 AM CDT
To: John Martin
Cc: Richard Mayer; Paige Delgado; Eric Delgado; Gary Moore
Subject: Fw: Odors in New Orleans -- Re: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill
John,

See note below. Please prioritize data review accordingly. Thanks

Craig Carroll
Chief, Emergency Readiness Section
EPA Region 6
Ph: 214-665-2220
Fax: 214-665-9718

----- Forwarded by Craig Carroll/R6/USEPA/US on 04/30/2010 07:38 AM -----

From: Sam Coleman/R6/USEPA/US
To: Mark Hansen/R6/USEPA/US, "Craig Carroll" <carroll.craig@epa.gov>
Date: 04/30/2010 06:51 AM
Subject: Fw: Odors in New Orleans -- Re: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill

URGENT

Read below

Samuel Coleman, PE
Superfund Div Region 6
214.665.6701 Ofc
214.789.2016 Cell

Sent by EPA Wireless E-Mail Services

▼ [Gina McCarthy](#)

----- Original Message -----

From: Gina McCarthy
Sent: 04/30/2010 07:44 AM EDT
To: Al Armendariz; Bob Perciasepe; Dana Tulis; Sam Coleman;

Carl Edlund

Cc: Stan Meiburg; Allyn Brooks-LaSure; Danny France; David Gray; Debbie Dietrich; Franklin Hill; Gilberto Irizarry; "gordon scott" <gordon.scott@epa.gov>; "griffith bryon" <griffith.bryon@epa.gov>; "hitchcock shane" <hitchcock.shane@epa.gov>; "hxfl" <hxfl@cdc.gov>; Janet Woodka; "kemker carol" <kemker.carol@epa.gov>; Kenneth Lapierre; Kevin Teichman; Lawrence Starfield; "neeley doug" <neeley.doug@epa.gov>; Paul Anastas; "peyton mike" <peyton.mike@epa.gov>; "quinones antonio" <quinones.antonio@epa.gov>; Robert Safay; Seth Oster; Steve Page; "terry carl" <terry.carl@epa.gov>; "wise allison" <wise.allison@epa.gov>; "Alan Rush" <rush.alan@epa.gov>

Subject: Re: Odors in New Orleans -- Re: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Got it. We will pull together a call this morning with OAQPS asap and get back to everyone.

▼ Al Armendariz

----- Original Message -----

From: Al Armendariz

Sent: 04/30/2010 06:29 AM CDT

To: Bob Perciasepe; Dana Tulis; Sam Coleman; Carl Edlund

Cc: Stan Meiburg; Allyn Brooks-LaSure; Dana Tulis; Danny France; David Gray; Debbie Dietrich; Franklin Hill; Gilberto Irizarry; Gina McCarthy; gordon.scott@epa.gov; griffith.bryon@epa.gov; hitchcock.shane@epa.gov; hxfl@cdc.gov; Janet Woodka; kemker.carol@epa.gov; Kenneth Lapierre; Kevin Teichman; Lawrence Starfield; neeley.doug@epa.gov; Paul Anastas; peyton.mike@epa.gov; quinones.antonio@epa.gov; Robert Safay; Sam Coleman; Seth Oster; Steve Page; terry.carl@epa.gov; wise.allison@epa.gov

Subject: Odors in New Orleans -- Re: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill
[note: BB email might not be working in Louisiana. Having to rely on hotel and JIC connections, plus texting, IMs, and phone calls. I apologize if eventually multiple copies from last night sent.]

Thanks Stan.

Sam and Carl,

On the drive to the hotel last night, persistent calls into AM news radio from N.O. and all points south about odors.

We should prioritize reviewing our own new data and also the state's stationary air toxic data. Think about focusing on the volatile organics, especially those known to be odorous (aldehydes, aromatics, reduced sulfur compounds, ?).

Could be wise to compare levels from 2 weeks ago to levels starting yesterday to historic hourly averages this time of year.

Dana: if the odors are real (which it appears they are) given the limited quantity of oil to date, a worst case scenario paints a huge problem. Depending on what we see in the data, we'll need concrete health-based standards from ORD and OAQPS to compare with measured levels for accurate communication with the public.

Al

-----Bob Perciasepe/DC/USEPA/US wrote: -----

To: Stan Meiburg/R4/USEPA/US@EPA
From: Bob Perciasepe/DC/USEPA/US
Date: 04/30/2010 05:25AM
cc: Al Armendariz/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Allyn Brooks-LaSure/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Dana Tulis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Danny France/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, David Gray/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Debbie Dietrich/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Franklin Hill/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, Gilberto Irizarry/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Gina McCarthy/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, gordon.scott@epa.gov, griffith.bryon@epa.gov, hitchcock.shane@epa.gov, hxfl@cdc.gov, Janet Woodka/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, kemker.carol@epa.gov, Kenneth Lapierre/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, Kevin Teichman/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Lawrence Starfield/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, neeley.doug@epa.gov, Paul Anastas/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, peyton.mike@epa.gov, quinones.antonio@epa.gov, Robert Safay/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, Sam Coleman/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Seth Oster/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Steve Page/RTP/USEPA/US@EPA, terry.carl@epa.gov, wise.allison@epa.gov
Subject: Re: Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Excellent points. There have been other reports of odors as well and the "spray" factor on windy beach day's is clearly a factor.

Bob Perciasepe
Deputy Administrator

(o) +1 202 564 4711
(c) +1 202 368 8193

Stan Meiburg---04/30/2010 01:11:39 AM---Colleagues: I just got off the phone with Bryon Griffith, Director of EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program,

From:

Stan Meiburg/R4/USEPA/US

To:

Dana Tulis/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Gilberto Irizarry/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Debbie Dietrich, Franklin Hill, hitchcock.shane@epa.gov, Al Armendariz/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Lawrence Starfield/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Gina McCarthy/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Steve Page, Sam Coleman/R6/USEPA/US@EPA, Janet Woodka/DC/USEPA/US, Paul Anastas/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, griffith.bryon@epa.gov, hxfl@cdc.gov, Seth Oster/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Bob Perciasepe, Allyn Brooks-LaSure/DC/USEPA/US@EPA, Kevin Teichman

Cc:

terry.carl@epa.gov, wise.allison@epa.gov, gordon.scott@epa.gov, Kenneth Lapierre/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, kemker.carol@epa.gov, neeley.doug@epa.gov, peyton.mike@epa.gov, quinones.antonio@epa.gov, Danny France/R4/USEPA/US@EPA, David Gray, Robert Safay/R4/USEPA/US@EPA

Date:

04/30/2010 01:11 AM

Subject:

Potential air impacts of concern from Deepwater Horizon oil spill

Colleagues:

I just got off the phone with Bryon Griffith, Director of EPA's Gulf of Mexico Program, who pointed out to me a concern that I had not anticipated about aerosols from the oil spill as it approaches the tidal zone and landfall. Others have thought this through but I hadn't thought of the spill this way, so I wanted to share this with you and I apologize if this is redundant.

Weather conditions in the Gulf are highly unusual now, with strong, sustained 25 knot winds from the Southeast. As the oil spill approaches land (first the barrier islands in, for example, the Mississippi Sound and then into the Sound itself), Bryon reported that the wave action generated by these winds will have a tendency to produce aerosolization of the oil to a much greater degree than normal, both by the churning of the waves themselves and by the tendency of the wind to shear off the tops of waves. These conditions can produce inland irritation due to salt spray in normal times. Bryon compared the event we are facing now to a red tide, where such aerosolization can produce respiratory irritation from the red tide organisms.

Bryon reported that already, at Stennis Space Center where the Gulf Program is housed, they are detecting odors which he is confident come from the spill. He reports some concern in the Gulf Region (at least in Mississippi, where he is) that this may increase stress on respiratorily compromised persons (e.g., in hospitals) in the Region. It certainly does validate the desire in the air monitoring plan to increase the monitoring of VOCs as the plan discusses. Bryon was concerned that the potential for effects from this phenomenon had been understated in the response discussions to date.

In addition to continuing to monitor the weather it seemed to me, in thinking about this, that we should consider 1) expanded modeling of the potential extent of such aerosolization under these unusual circumstances; 2) consultation with our public health partners through the Area Command Center or other means to alert them to this possibility and discuss what public health messaging or advisories may be appropriate, and 3) accelerating the VOC monitoring as much as possible, and 4) seeking explicit authorization from the Coast Guard to cover the costs of such monitoring, whether done by us or by State/local government, as a reimburseable expense of the response.

Bryon, if I have missed or mischaracterized any of this, please don't hesitate to correct me!

Stan Meiburg